

gateway

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University of Nebraska at Omaha

Office Building Plan Unveiled

If the master campus construction plans go according to schedule, UNO will have a classroom-office building complementing Kayser Hall in front of the administration building.

Last week director of campus planning and development, Dr. Rex Engbretson and architects Kirkham Michael and Associates, unveiled the designs for the proposed structure. It will be a five story building, the same height as Kayser Hall, but providing about 75-80,000 sq. feet. (Kayser Hall has 50,000 sq. feet.)

Of course the controversy which might arise on the project is its location. Community ecology minded residents and students alike have long insisted the mall in front of the administration building, with its rows of American Elms, be preserved. However, the office building will take part of the mall including several of the trees.

But according to the master plan this is where the building must go. (Under the rejected Latenser plan what is now Kayser Hall and a companion building were to go behind the administration building. The new master plan calls for general services buildings to be constructed south of the administration building.)

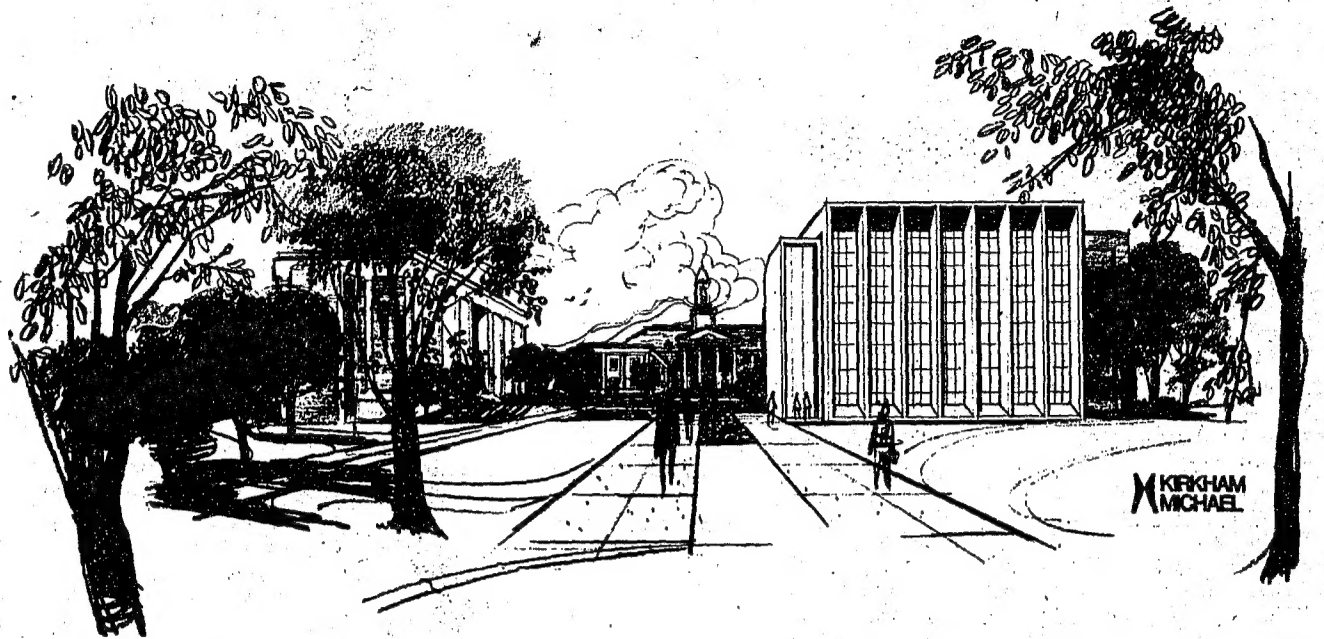
Academic Zones

Why was this site selected for the office building? The construction-expansion plan

divides the campus into academic zones. Engbretson said the plan brings the campus to a level of density. Plus, the university wants to achieve "utilization appropriate to a campus in an urban setting such as ours," Engbretson said.

Turning over the explanation to the architects, Engbretson presents the rationale for present designs. Representing Kirkham Michael, Steve Saylor said they "didn't do much in the way of investigating other sites." The architects did, however, start with a schedule including projected space requirements. These included classroom space, office space and a multi-media lecture hall. With these statistics they could decide how large the building need be.

Deciding where to place the structure was the next problem. In several alternatives the building could be ten stories and obstruct almost everything behind, i.e. the administration building, no matter how it was placed. What they finally decided on was a five story building with the lecture hall easily accessible in its southeast corner, on the first floor.



Architects Kirkham and Michaels' conception of the classroom-office building scheduled to slip into place between the Eppler Library and Kayser Hall. (Also see page 3.)

In deciding on the present location the planners were definitely aware of what they call "the interval of exposure" specifically what one can see from Dodge Street. In playing around with several building locations, the architects also considered pedestrian access. There has to be access to this building and the administration building as well. Saylor said, "if possible we'd like to respect that, increase the interval of exposure and make the mass of the building more compatible with present buildings."

Elm Disease

Which brings us to the trees. Saylor said the city forester Orville Hatcher and another nursery consultant concur, the American Elm trees in front of the administration building have the Dutch elm disease. Saylor said their report is "fairly discouraging. All the trees are infected and their death is inevitable."

Dutch elm disease hits only the American Elm tree. It's a fungus which is spread from tree to tree through the plant's vascular system. Initially, the elm bark beetle brings the disease into the tree's system. Once a tree is hit and if there are many elm trees

close together, as on the administration mall, the disease cannot be checked.

A spokesman for Marshall Nurseries said a new chemical has been developed to fight the disease but it may be effective only if the trees are less than five per cent infested. Most of UNO's elms are more than 60 per cent gone.

So it made sense, Saylor said "rather than try to push the building around to save some trees in fairly good condition" but which might live only another five years, to place the building and to develop a new landscaping plan.

Saylor said the planners want to achieve three things: help maintain the visual, pleasing quality of the campus with its landscaping, create a place where the students can congregate and provide a multi-media lecture hall. One other pre-requisite is to maintain access for the handicapped.

Three Entrances

As it's planned, the building has no main entrance. "At least not in the same context as Kayser," Saylor said. The office building will have three separate entrances.

One of the important aspects of the building is a courtyard area complete with grass and a fountain. Saylor said they could have taken the formal approach creating a concrete sitting area compatible with the Georgian architecture of the present administration building, but "we felt the students would rather have informal areas. We want the students to be on grass and have trees." So outside the lecture hall on the southeast side will be the courtyard area. The whole courtyard site will be depressed and landscaped so students will have a semi-private area to congregate and talk. Grassy slopes which students may walk down will lead to the area but landscaping will be such so it won't be used just as a shortcut from building to building.

The courtyard will be something private for the students, unobservable from Dodge. But the planners will have something for passersby to appreciate too — the proposed landscaping to replace the diseased elms. Saylor said, it will be done "on three different planes — high, medium and low." Species to be planted will vary. Most will be hearty disease resistant plants. There will be annual beds of flowers such as petunias. Also in the "low" classification will be mums, lilies of the valley and phlox. In the medium range plants will include junipers, yews and conifers. Also planted will be willows, barberry trees, redbuds and around the fountain area, clump birch. Around the periphery of the whole area will be such species as pin oaks, russian olives and scotch pines.

Three Objectives

But now what about the inside of the building? As already mentioned the three main objectives are to provide more classroom and office space and a lecture hall. Basically a typical floor plan has offices down one side of the hall with classrooms and other special

(Cont'd on Page 3)

Kent State's Beer —

Vice-Chancellor Selected

University of Nebraska at Omaha Chancellor Ronald W. Roskens has named Dr. Ronald S. Beer vice chancellor for educational and student services, effective Sept. 1.

Beer, 36, now executive assistant to the president at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, will fill the new UNO position as the principal administrator and student affairs officer responsible directly to the chancellor for all matters relating to educational and student services. His salary will be \$29,000 annually.

In announcing the new appointment, Roskens said "Dr. Beer brings to this assignment a splendid record of performance in various administrative responsibilities at Kent State. He is regarded as a most efficient and competent administrator by students, his faculty, and his staff associates. We are delighted to add him to our administrative team at UNO."

Administration Background

The position as UNO vice chancellor for educational and student services was authorized by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents in the recent session.

Beer will bring to his new position a broad background in university administration. Since he joined Kent State in 1961, he has served as executive assistant to the president, assistant dean of men and acting dean of men.

Since July, 1970, when he became executive assistant to the Kent State president, Beer's responsibilities have included initiation and coordination of special projects, supervision of office operations, and service as the administrative officer for the division of campus security which at Kent State has a professional staff of about 100 persons and an annual budget of more than \$1 million.



Ronald Beer becomes Vice-Chancellor for Educational and Student Affairs Sept. 1.

Editorial Beer Appointment Came As A Shock

Students and faculty at UNO may find the "proper channels" of decision-making regarding administrative appointments only flow into a large credibility gap, if the appointment of Dr. Ronald Beer as vice-chancellor for educational affairs and student services is any indication.

When Chancellor Ronald Roskens announced, shortly after taking office, that three new supportive vice-chancellorships would be instituted, it seemed there would be no secrecy involved in the selection process.

A search committee would be formed to make recommendations. Roskens began laying it on the line at this point by changing search committees to "consultative groups," making it clear in the process that although the committee could recommend, they would make no decisions — the final selection would be his.

Consequently, the first consultative group — to seek a vice-chancellor for educational affairs and student services — was created, chaired by Associate Arts and Sciences Dean Richard Lane. After reviewing applications, the committee recommended three candidates to Roskens: Dr. Gale Oleson from UNO, Dr. Eugene Kasper from Kansas State at Manhattan and Beer, from Kent State University, where Roskens was executive vice-president.

To keep the process open, and presumably to receive more input before his decision, Roskens gave students, faculty and administrators the opportunity to interview the candidates. It was assumed Roskens would weigh all opinions, make a selection, then submit it for approval to the Board of Regents.

At this point, or some time before, the process went underground. Tuesday the Office of Information released a press release announcing Rosken's appointment of Beer effective September 1.

The announcement came as a shock to many in the university, especially those involved in the "consultative group," the interviewers and the other two candidates themselves.

The decision was made sooner than anyone had suspected, at the regents' private meeting Friday, August 4. Regent Kermit Hansen told the *Gateway* Roskens brought Beer with him to the session and said Beer hadn't accepted the position yet, but if it was accepted would the regents approve the appointment. They approved, according to Hansen.

The Regents Advisory Committee, a group of students from all three campuses, held their monthly meeting the same evening. Several students became suspicious when Roskens brought Beer along, so Student President Rusty Schwartz asked Roskens if any appointment had been, or would be, decided upon by the regents at that time. Roskens said no, there is no vice-chancellor

yet. He didn't tell Schwartz a vice-chancellor was being approved the same evening.

Earlier Roskens had told Lane no action would be taken at the August regents' meeting. According to Lane, "He (Roskens) said they wouldn't be able to move it that quickly," but that "he was going to get permission to announce some appointments before the next (September) regents' meeting," pending approval.

Neither the actual appointment or Roskens' request for provisional appointments were brought up at the public Board of Regents meeting Saturday, August 5.

Furthermore, on Roskens' word, Lane told other members of the consultative group and the other candidates no appointment would be made for some time. In fact, Beer had been interviewed by student, faculty and administrative groups the very morning of his appointment. All those involved in the "process" were made unsuspecting patsies.

There simply was no time for consultation of any sort, revealing Rosken's consultative group as a mere front to obscure what was really going on. To protect the pretense, Roskens lied to an Associate Dean and the Student Body President directly ... and indirectly to all those connected with the university.

The entire affair undermines Roskens' yet-to-be-established credibility on the campus, just weeks after his openness and honesty were being acclaimed. Additionally, it will put greater credibility pressure on Beer himself.

For one thing, Kasper was the choice of the consultative group. A Student Senate resolution urging Roskens to appoint Kasper was passed August 10 and has yet to reach Roskens' hands. Roskens himself hasn't been reachable, having taken a two-week vacation starting August 6.

The selection process casts doubt on the regents' credibility, which has been an object of public and student concern for some time. At the same August 5 meeting, new open agenda procedures were begun. Several regents, Hansen included, have been elected in part by proposing greater public accessibility to the regents and their meetings.

Normally, high-level posts are given ritual approval at the regents' public meeting. Apparently Beer is considered an exception.

Whether or not this appalling state of affairs will set precedent for the two remaining operative consultative groups remains to be seen, but hopefully a closer eye will be kept on the searches for vice-chancellors for administration and finance and executive assistant to the chancellor.

When introduced, Roskens' methods seemed too good to be true. They were.

GT, TS

TYPOS

By Cheeko

Adew, Adew, Adew...

Dear Friends and Infidels:

Now it's time to say good-bye to all our company. Adew, adew, adew.

I feel that by now all of my lovely readers must have been completely converted to my religion. This, however, does not ease the pain of leaving you; but before I leave, never to return, I think it's about time I told you who I am.

I was born in a small mid-western hospital. My parents, both my mother and father, were thrilled for it was immediately discernable that I was just another baby.

As I grew older, people could tell that I was going to become an ordinary, dull and perhaps normal child.

Now I am a young adult and I am ordinary, dull, but perhaps not normal, for I am a common peace fool.

One last thing pertaining to me personally, there is absolutely no truth to the rumour that I wear curb feelers on my eye glasses at night.

Double love and kisses,
(quite insincerely)
Chico

Gate Crashers

Readers Offer Corrections

Editor:

Regarding your Aug. 4 article on the UNO Community Writers' Workshop. I am the assistant to the director, not the assistant director. The distinction is anything but fine.

Max Levy

Dear Editor:

In your editorial of August 4th you stated that UN-L "has been operating on a 4.5 scale while UNO's is 4.0." UN-L has not had a 4.5 grading system in three years. I should know, because I was a senior member on the Arts and Sciences Advisory Board that was instrumental in getting the 4.5 dropped and a 4.0 system reinstated.

Cordially,
Mary Lynne James

The editorial should have stated a half point is given for a B plus or C plus, however, there is no A plus, preventing a 4.5 average. So although Lincoln does operate on a 4.0 scale like Omaha's, there is still inequality in the grading system. — ed.

**Writers, Editors
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Around Campus

Decor Committee

The Student Center Policy Board is currently putting together a committee to make recommendations to Thelma Engle, MBSC social director, for furnishings and decor in the remodeled sections of the Student Center. Anyone interested can contact her in

MBSC 250.

Book Exchange

Students who want to sell books can register them in MBSC 232. A service charge of 25 cents for the first book and 10 cents for each additional book will be charged. Students who want to purchase books can

do so Sept. 4-8. For further information contact Bill Lane, ext. 620.

Space Requests

The Student Center Policy Board is taking requests for office space in the newly remodeled section of the MBSC. Requests can be submitted to

the Student Senate c/o Rusty Schwartz and will be forwarded to the policy board. Any official campus associations can apply.

Alpha Epsilon Pi

AEP fraternity is making an effort to re-organize on campus. Anyone interested can contact Steve Chasen, 391-4637.

Grade Point Information

Due to many inquiries directed to the College of Education, clarification is needed on grade points required for admittance. In the professional education sequence of courses students need a 2.25 to stay in the college. For majors and minors in secondary education a 2.5 is required.

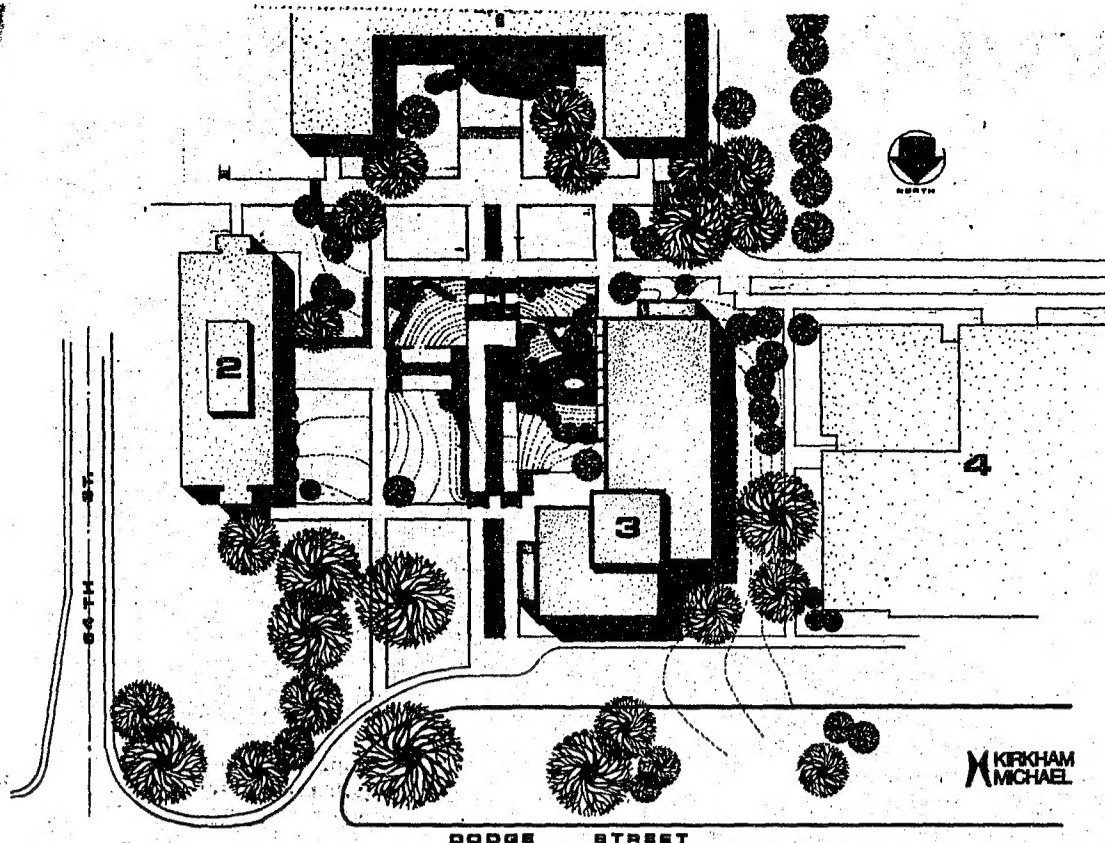


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Office Building Plans

purpose rooms down the other. The office sections are designed as "modules" with office suites. Although this isn't definite yet, tentatively the suites will have an area for secretarial support at one end and a conference center at the other. Each floor will contain about three office modules. There are no plans yet to subdivide the classroom and special purpose room areas of each floor.

Future Plans

Engebretson said the building will have a long range commitment to the College of Business Administration and department of economics. On an

interim basis, the English and political science departments will have office space in the building. The classrooms, excluding the lecture hall, will provide about 1,000 student stations based on a 60 per cent seating occupancy and 80 per cent use during the day. Engebretson said the additional classroom space will maintain the current status but the building will ease the faculty office situation which is much tighter.

Bids Soon

Campus planning hopes bids for the \$3.7 million building will go out this fall with construction slated for early spring and completion in another year.

Looking at the future, after the classroom-office building, other construction projects will include the new library to replace the temporary parking lot on the Milder property and Phase Two of Fine Arts to be adjacent to Fine Arts Phase One. Ultimately the old library will be converted for administration purposes while the old administration building will probably be used for general classroom purposes. Hopefully parking will be on the outskirts of the campus with walkways and malls connecting all areas. Buildings are being structured to carry a maximum capacity of 20,000 students.

'Salzburg Connection' ***Cinema Catastrophy***

Currently playing at the Six West, *Salzburg Connection* is a glaring example of what can happen when a fairly decent literary work is converted into a cinematographic catastrophe. Helen Macinnis' novel, while no means a masterpiece, was a nice exercise in suspense. The movie has all the suspense of a mid-morning edition of *Sesame Street* ... with acting to match. What the viewer will wonder about is not *HOW* the movie will end but *WHEN*. This 4 hour and 82 minute misery (that ain't bad for a 90 minute movie) drags on interminably.

Pitcous Attempt

Of no use or aid whatsoever is the dialogue. There is a piteous attempt at authenticity (or something) in that the script is repleat with 7 "God Damns," one "Keeryst," and a sterling bit of dialogue concerning insects in the rectal area or someplace depending on the viewers own interpretation of the synonym for "donkey." And let us not forget the ever-memorable "up yours" voiced by the hero to his non-English speaking captor. In the role of the lawyer turned unwilling espionage agent, Barry Newman came off as an unwilling actor. I won't bore you with any analysis of the other "performers" they just aren't worth it.

ACTING — not so's you'd notice it. **DIRECTION** — one gets the distinct impression that Lee Katzin was off fishing in one of the many lakes exhibited in the film while the picture mis-produced itself. I mention the lakes only because they have some moderate bearing on the plot. **MUSICAL SCORE** — a 9 to 0 forfeit.

Corny Crucifixion

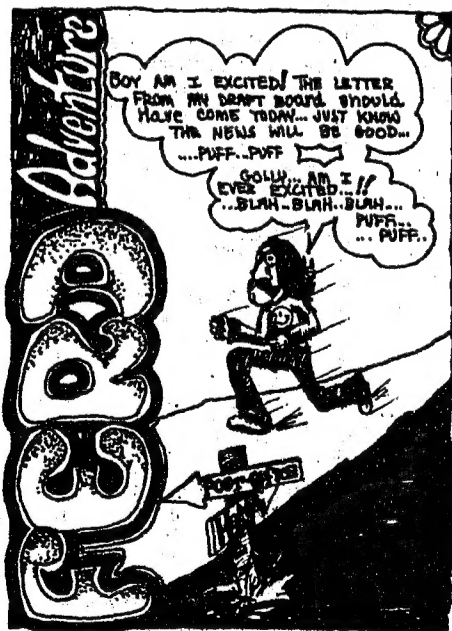
Ok, Ok. So the beauty of the majestically picturesque Austrian landscape is masterfully photographed in all too few of the scenes. This isn't supposed to be a travelogue — or is it? So many of the scenes are shot through the windows of cars that it would seem that dramamine should be mandatory.

There is a heroic balm applied when big brother Johann bashes the bad guys (I guess they were bad guys, you're never really sure) but that's negated by the bad guys miraculously recovering and bashing big brother in a corny catacomb crucifixion. The "evil" woman agent is blown up in one of the too many stop action sequences, a just and fitting end based on her portrayal of the character.

There are so many methods of extermination employed (one baddy is unceremoniously dispatched by means of an accelerated backwards trip down a long, long, long stairway) that one wonders why they didn't try some old tried and true method like boiling in oil. Oh, in one brilliant bit of untraditional turn-about the bad guys chase the good guy in a carriage drawn by WHITE horses.

The film does have one redeeming feature however... it ends... badly. Save your money and spend it on something more useful, like melted 1920 phonograph records.

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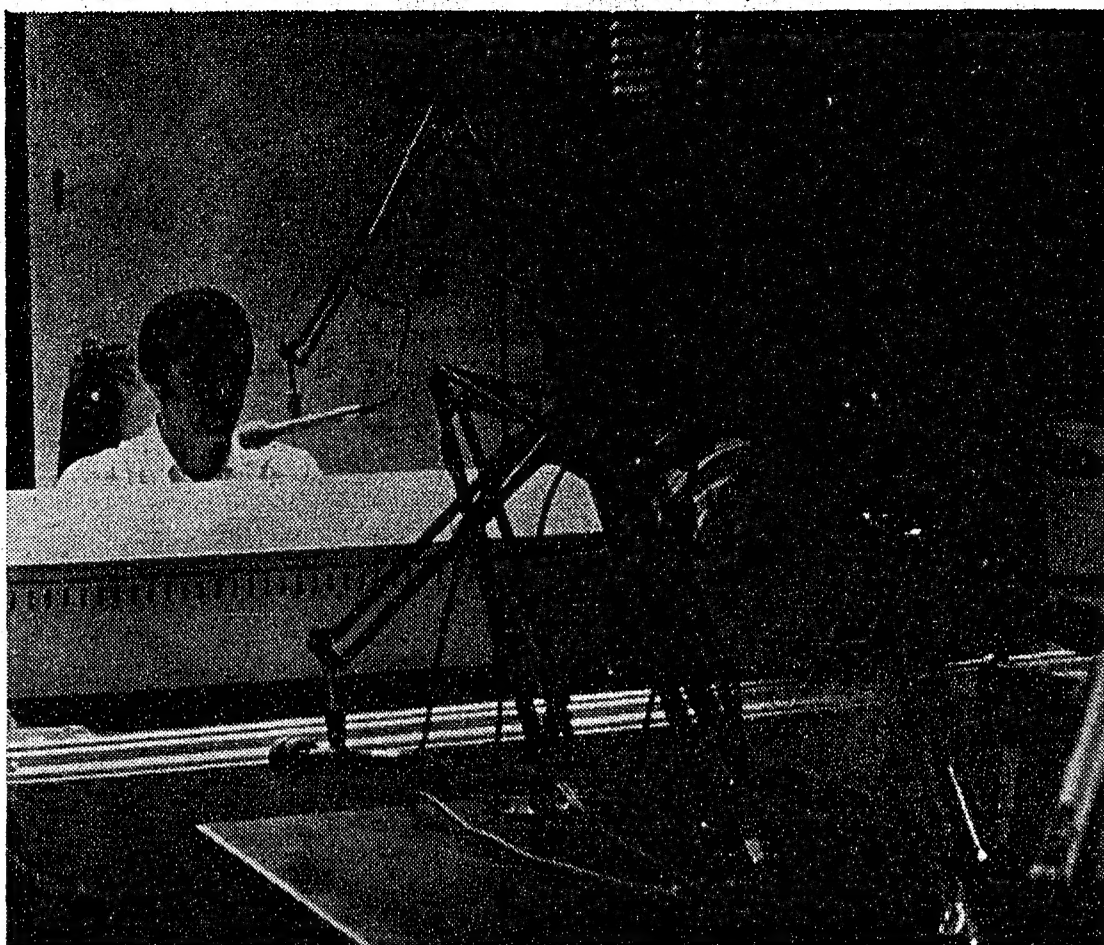
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